



# TOWN OF TEWKSBURY

TOWN HALL  
1009 MAIN ST  
TEWKSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01876

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Robert Kocsmiersky, Chair  
Jason Christian, Vice Chair  
Richard Levasseur, Clerk  
David Aznavoorian  
Susan Bishop  
Thomas L. Cooke  
Richard Russo

### Finance Committee

February 7, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Mr. Rob Kocsmiersky - Chair at 7:00 PM on Monday February 7, 2022. Also present at the meeting were Mr. Jason Christian - Vice Chair, Mr. Richard Levasseur - Clerk, Mr. David Aznavoorian, Ms. Susan Bishop and Mr. Thomas Cooke.

Also participating in the meeting was town manager Mr. Richard Montouri.

Mr. Richard Russo was not present at the meeting.

#### 2. FY23 Budget Reviews

##### Police

Chief Columbus reviewed the police department's budget spreadsheet. Highlights of the budget included increases of \$259,000 in the salary budget for contractual obligations etc. Operating costs increased \$61,957 due to increases in Policy Management, maintenance of items and training. Capital outlay was increased \$26,000 due to firearms replacement, it was noted that replacing the firearms instead of having them updated with newer parts and the labor costs associated is more cost effective.

There were questions from the committee about staffing levels, firearms, radios, body cameras. The chief would like to add an additional officer to each shift due to the fact that policing has evolved where they are truly trying to get people the help they need whether it be substance abuse, domestic issues etc. this increases the paperwork that the officers must fill out but that is well worth the cost given that people are given the help that they need in our community. About unfunded priorities and how they would be able to get cost estimates for these. Overtime costs could be saved with additional officers. Grants are being looked at for body cameras.

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### **Board of Selectmen**

Mr. Richard Montouri presented the board of selectmen budget spreadsheet. There were no changes to salaries.

The finance committee did not have any questions on this budget.

### **Town Manager**

Mr. Richard Montouri presented the board of selectmen budget spreadsheet. There were step and cost-of-living increases in salaries.

The finance committee did not have any questions on this budget.

### **Town Manager Unclassified**

Town Manager Mr. Richard Montouri presented the Unclassified budget spreadsheet. There is a 6% increase in the Shawsheen Tech and Essex Agricultural school budgets. This could change once we meet with the School Superintendent. Property and liability insurance budget costs were increased by 10% after discussions with our insurance carrier. This estimate includes covering the new school and new fire station.

The committee had questions about property and liability insurance and settlements. It actually costs more to insure a vacant building (in this case the two schools that are closing). Shawsheen Tech enrollment numbers were discussed. Questions around insurance costs overall.

### **Community Events**

Town Manager Mr. Richard Montouri presented the Community Events budget spreadsheet. There were no changes from the prior fiscal year.

The finance committee did not have any questions on this budget.

### **Solid Waste**

Town Manager Mr. Richard Montouri presented the Solid Waste budget spreadsheet. There was an increase of 3% in the budget due to contract obligations. There is an adjustment in fuel costs.

The committee questions about tonnage generated versus prior years and Sutton Brook disposal costs.

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**3. Town Manager – Transfers**

None

**4. Finance committee member representation on other committees**

No committee reports

**5. No Timesheets submitted.**

**6. No Minutes to approve**

**7. MOTION:** A motion to adjourn was made by committee member Mr. David Aznavoorian at approximately 8:00PM, seconded by committee member Mr. Jason Christian.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Documents Presented and/or Discussed:**

- Police department budget spreadsheet and narrative.
- Board of Selectmen budget spreadsheet.
- Town Manager budget spreadsheet
- Town Manager unclassified budget spreadsheet
- Community Events budget spreadsheet
- Solid Waste budget spreadsheet

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